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LETTERS TO THE TIMES

Conflicting Stands Are by Readers on Times

On Feb. 7 you published a letter from Jack Middlekauff, Redondo Beach, expressing his opinion of Drew Pearson. I congratulate Mr. Middlekauff for his appraisal of the columnist.

No doubt a vast number wonder how Pearson's syndicated lies and smears obtain outlets in large and respected newspapers. But news mediums have to earn a living, and this certainly involves catering to readers' tastes. Perhaps Miltont readers preferred Pearson to Times regulars.

Pearson is dedicated to fomenting scandal directed at the politically prominent, stating as facts much that consists of pure fabrication; he knows that he enjoys immunity from contradiction by reason of his targets' dignity and awfulness of Pearson's reputation for disregard of the truth.

Recent examples of this are his daily barrage directed at John McCone (whose appointment was so overwhelmingly confirmed) and his typical "it can be divulged" poison arrows designed to irritate his readers with impending identification of a married woman associated with Gov. Rockefeller.

FRANK PETTEE
Santa Barbara

In order to serve those four readers whose views diverge from mine, i.e., the people the enlightened from the unenlightened, you have

kept, and as it seems very reluctantly, the Drew Pearson column. (See your attack on Mr. Pearson of Jan. 17, 1962 in regard to McCone, see the contribution of Mr. Middlekauff you published on Feb. 7). It would be only fair—if you really mean to serve divergent readers' interests, to publish a reply to Mr. Middlekauff's letter.

I have been reading Mr. Pearson's column for more than 20 years, also followed events resulting from Mr. Pearson's column as closely as possible. A former political journalist myself and a tax-paying citizen, I am keenly interested in the happenings behind the scenes in Washington. Mr. Pearson cannot be bought, following the best traditions of journalism. Instead of likening Mr. Pearson to gossip columnists, I would liken him to Marcus Porcius Cato the conscientious of Rome.

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